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PATENT

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 20 as follows:

1. (Amended) A polynucleotide comprising a first promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory molecule and a first sequence encoding at least one antigen wherein said first sequence is operably linked to said first promoter.

2. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the promoter is from a CD80 (B7-1) gene.

3. (Amended) The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the promoter is from a CD86 (B7-2) gene.

9. (Amended) A core carrier coated with the polynucleotide according to claim 1.

11. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. (Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a nucleotide sequence encoding an antigen operably linked to a promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory molecule, said promoter capable of directing the expression of said antigen in the subject; and

(b) administering the nucleotide sequence to the subject, whereby the antigen is expressed in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response.

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15. (Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the co-stimulatory molecule is CD80.

20. (Amended) A method for eliciting an immune response in a vertebrate subject, said method comprising:

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(a) providing a core carrier particle coated with a nucleotide sequence encoding at least one antigen, said nucleotide sequence operably linked to a promoter from a gene encoding a CD80 (B7-1) or a CD86 (B7-2) co-stimulatory factor, wherein said promoter is capable of driving expression of the antigen-encoding sequence in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated particle to the subject using a particle-mediated transdermal delivery technique, whereby the antigen is expressed in an amount sufficient to elicit an immune response.

In the Figures:

Figures 1-7 have been replaced with new Figures 1-7 attached hereto.